

AMENDMENTS THE DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended Figures 1-4 by adding descriptive labels to address the objections detailed by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. The text of the descriptive labels substantially matches the text contained throughout the specification as-filed. No new matter has been added. In light of the amendments, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the drawing objections.

REMARKS

The current Office Action addresses an incorrect set of claims. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-7 and 10-15 are anticipated by the published application to Oshima, and that claims 8 and 9 are obvious over Oshima in view of Tyndall (claim 8) or Bjelland (claim 9). However, in a preliminary amendment filed September 1, 2006, Applicant cancelled claims 1-15 and added new claims 16-32. The Office received these claims as is evidenced by the attached copy of the electronic receipt. Therefore, the current rejections are moot and claims 16-32 should be pending before the Examiner.

Nevertheless, the references cited in the Office Action do not anticipate claims 16-32, nor do they render the claims obvious. The claimed invention is directed to a media gateway for a telecommunications network that receives and converts signals between first and second communication formats. As claimed in claim 16, the media gateway comprises a media streaming unit that determines whether incoming signals comprise media data. If there is more than one communications channel connected to the media gateway, the media streaming unit will detect whether the media data is to be re-transmitted over another communications channel, or on another timeslot over the same communications channel. None of the cited references discloses this aspect of the claims.

Oshima, for example, discloses a gateway audio device that converts audio data packets between network formats by processing the audio data and manipulating packet header information. However, Oshima does not disclose a media streaming unit that determines whether incoming signals comprise media data, and detects whether the media data is to be re-transmitted over another communications channel, or on another timeslot over the same communications channel based on the number of communications channels connected to the gateway.

The remaining references – Tyndall and Bjelland – are irrelevant. Tyndall discloses consolidating notifications (i.e., commands or messages termed “unit attentions”) stored in a queue by periodically examining the queue and removing unnecessary notifications. Bjelland discloses a method of facilitating charging or billing in a packet-switched network having a node split between a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity. Like Oshima, neither reference discloses the claimed media streaming unit.

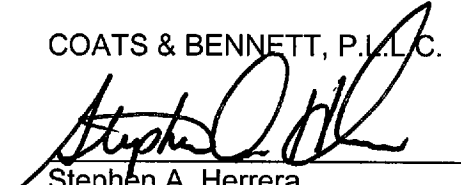
Therefore, none of the references can anticipate claim 16. Nor can they render claim 16 obvious alone or in any combination.

The remaining independent claims 27 and 28 contain language similar to that of claim 16. Therefore, for reasons similar to those stated above, they too are patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant requests allowance of all pending claims 16-32.

Respectfully submitted,

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